An
Inaugural Essay
On
Cynanche Trachealis
Submitted to
The examination
of
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The
Trustees and Medical Professors
of the
University of Pennsylvania
On the 19th day of April 1809
For the
Degree of Doctor of Medicine,
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An Inaugural Essay On Cynanche Trachealis &c

The causes & nature of this disease have been already so completely developed, & its proper mode of treatment so fully investigated, that there remains nothing new for me to offer on the subject

I shall first notice the seat of cynanche trachealis, secondly, mention its symptoms. Thirdly describe its causes & fourthly its proper mode of treatment

The Cynanche trachealis is seated in the glottis larynx & adjoining muscles & membranes. It occurs rarely in adults. It is confined chiefly to children from a few months after their birth, untill they are ten or twelve years old. It prevails most in low & marshy situations, & places subject to inundations. it has, however, been observed to occur in high & dry situations distant from any waters. Sometimes it comes on suddenly manifesting its peculiar symptoms from the very first, but it more commonly creeps

on

on in the form of a common catarrh. It has
been known to accompany & succeed other diseases,
as small pox, rheumatism measles, gout &c

The symptoms by which this disease may be
most certainly known, are a dry cough, a sense
of straitness about the larynx & a hoarsness in speak-
ing & coughing. a difficulty of respiration attended
with a peculiar sound at inspiration, like air
forcibly driven through a narrow aperture. The
person, who has once seen a case of cynanche
trachealis, & heard this sound, can never be at a
loss to distinguish it from any other affection on
any future occasion. Together with these symptoms
the patient complains of an uneasy sensation
of heat on his skin, & his pulse is frequent & hard
When this disease terminates fatally, it is com-
monly in the following manner. The patient in
the evening, after having been exposed during the day,
appears dull & heavy, & shuns his usual amusements,
he is drowsy & generally falls asleep. He awakes
in the night, with the symptoms above described, which
sometimes continue to increase untill he is destroyed

He commonly enjoys a slight remission in the morning, which does not continue long before the disease returns with increased violence. His breathing now grows more difficult & laborious; every inspiration is accompanied with a shrill sound & violent contraction of the abdomen under the cartilages of the ribs. He is very restless & tries different positions for his relief, but no position, in which he places himself, appears to afford the least alleviation of his sufferings. His face is flushed & swollen & he appears in constant danger of suffocation. After these symptoms have continued for sometime, the patient perhaps, enjoys again a slight remission, but they soon return with increased force, & thus by repeated attacks, in three or four days terminate his existance. Sometimes the disease after having insidiously abated in violence, leaving the patient, to appearance, out of danger, suddenly returns & soon destroys him with convulsive struggles, livid lips, & swollen countenance, giving him the appearance of one strangled.

When the cynanche trachealis terminates favourably the patients skin becomes moist, the fever & difficulty

of breathing disappear, & the cough gradually wears away
a white viscid substance is sometimes expectorated, after
the disease has continued a few days, & he gets well. At
other times it assumes a chronic form, continuing for
two or three weeks, when the patient gradually recovers,
frequently coughing up a white substance resembling
lines of membrane

The cynanche trachealis is produced by all the causes
that produce fever, particularly by cold. hence its more
frequent accurance in the Spring & autumn, from
the coldness of & sudden changes in the weather.

It is proven to be of an inflammatory nature 1st
By the hoarsness & peculiar sound in inspiration
before described, which cannot be imitated by any con=
traction of the glottis in a healthy state 2d By the blood
always exhibiting marks of inflammation either by a sizy
coat or preternatural floridity. 3d By the remedies which cure
it. 4th By the symptoms of fever which always attend it
5th By the appearances exhibited on dissection, which are
1st a slight degree of inflammation in the trachea
2. a thick matter resembling mucus. 3 a membrane
similar to that which succeeds inflammation in the

pleura & bowels, formed from the coagulating lymph of the blood. 4th In some cases there are no marks of disease of any kind, from the serous vessels of the trachea being too highly excited to admit the red particles of blood

When the cynanche trachealis has appeared in this high grade last mentioned, it has been called spasmodic. When the serous vessels of the trachea have been tinged with red blood, inflammatory. When a liquid matter has been found in the trachea, humoral; & when a membrane has been found adhering to the trachea, it has received the name of angina polyposa

In the forming state of this disease, it will frequently yield to a puke of antimonial wine, ipecacuanha, or tartar emetic. To be effectual it should operate four or five times

When the disease is completely formed its cure should be begun by bloodletting. It should be repeated frequently if the urgency of the symptoms require it. It never fails to give great relief, & frequently checks the disease completely. as powerfull as this remedy is, it will be often necessary to aid it 1st by vomits. there should be given

daily, or oftener if necessary 2nd Cathartics of Jalap rhubarb, or calomel in large doses. 3rd Blisters or cataplasms to the neck, throat, & even to the limbs. 4th Warm bath, this has been observed to produce great relief, when it has been followed by a gentle perspiration. 5th Seneka snake root has been highly recommended in this disease. I never saw it used except with some of the above remedies.

6th Towards the close of the disease, when the morbid action has been reduced, a few drops of Laudanum given occasionally in some demulcent mixture, never fails to produce the most salutary effect